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For Immediate Release
Sept. 7, 2006

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Pause to remember our heroes

*American Heroes Week in Michigan begins Sunday, September 10
Canton police officers honored*

LANSING—As September 11 approaches, we again pause to remember the horrific tragedies of that day five years ago. We remember the ordinary people who became extraordinary human beings on that fateful day. To honor the memory of the 9/11 heroes, Sen. Bruce Patterson authored a 2003 law that designates the week of September 11 as American Heroes Week in the state of Michigan.

Patterson sponsored the measure so Michigan citizens could remember the extraordinary altruism, compassion, courage, integrity, dedication and selflessness displayed during the tragedy of 9/11. Each year during American Heroes Week he wanted to honor citizens who show these characteristics in their daily work, behavior and accomplishments.

Two such heroes are Officer Lauren Kuzmanovich and Officer Adam Falk of the Canton Township Police Department. On July 31, 2006, Kuzmanovich and Falk were dispatched to a vehicle on the railroad tracks at Haggerty, south of Joy Road. They discovered a vehicle on the tracks and a semi-conscious driver with a serious head injury. The officers also saw that a train was approaching.

When it appeared that the train probably would not be able to stop in time, the officers pulled the driver from the wrecked vehicle. The driver was saved from great injury and possibly death.

Kuzmanovich and Falk showed the same characteristics that the heroes of 9/11 displayed, and Sen. Patterson said he will honor them as American Heroes.

“We in the State of Michigan can honor our heroes and in turn, it helps us keep in our minds and close to our hearts all the heroes of 9/11,” said Patterson. “We should all remember to thank those heroes that we encounter in our everyday lives.”

Kuzmanovich and Falk will each receive a proclamation for their heroism from the Michigan Senate.

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